

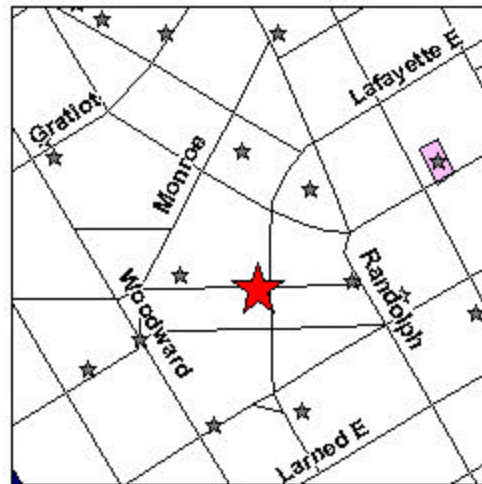
Bagley Memorial Fountain

Location: Woodward and Monroe Streets.

Local	v	11/5/74
State	v	3/3/71
State Marker		
National	v	1/1/74



Photo taken mid 1950's



Historic overview:

Designed by H. H. Richardson, the John Judson Bagley Memorial Fountain is made entirely out of pink granite known as Bragville granite from Worcester Massachusetts. Richardson modeled the fountain after a ciborium, a freestanding vaulted canopy supported by four columns, in St. Mark's Basilica in Venice. The fountain measures 21 feet in height and 7 feet across at the basin. Four lion heads are located at the center of the fountain to distribute water. Two of the heads have "normal" temperature water and the other two have cold water. The fountain was designed to have large amounts of ice packed around its pipes from May to November to provide the people with "water cold and pure as the coldest mountain stream," as stated in Bagley's will. The cornice of the fountain tells the origin of the gift.

The fountain was built to memorialize John J. Bagley, the 16th governor of Michigan from 1873 to 1877. Before becoming governor his other accomplishments included Detroit Alderman from 1860-61 and Police Commissioner from 1865-72. He was also influential in the creation of the Detroit Metropolitan Police Commission and the construction of the 1st Detroit House of Correction. In his will, he made a \$5,000 provision for a drinking fountain for the people of Detroit. In 1887, six years after his death the fountain was dedicated at the corner of Woodward and Fort. In 1926 it was moved to Campus Martius, Monroe and Woodward because of the increase of automobile traffic.

The fountain is currently in storage and will be relocated near Cadillac Square. The map indicates the new proposed placement of the fountain. The fountain is the only remaining architectural work of Richardson remaining in the Detroit area.

